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OFM 2

21 January 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel White

VIA

:

SUBJECT : ADP Staff Report on OCR Bibliographic Project
Survey

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[redacted] has sent to you for information the attached ADP Staff report of a survey of a Bibliographic project in OCR. Unless you are particularly interested in the subject, I don't believe you would find its massive detail particularly rewarding reading. There are, however, several related points of interest.

1. The duplication alluded to in Joe's buckslip is
a. OCR has a contract with the Library of Congress to produce index cards containing bibliographic data on Bloc scientific and technical literature (\$336, 380/year).

b. OSI has a contract with [redacted] to produce data extracted from Bloc Medical literature (\$27, 000/year).

c. OSI has a contract with the Department of Agriculture to produce a monthly Bibliography of Agriculture (\$70, 000/year).

d. The Air Force has a Scientific and Technical Exploitation Project (STEP) to identify and abstract Soviet Bloc books and articles of interest to Air Intelligence. (OCR/Biographic Register uses index cards produced by this project as does the Aerospace Information Division (AID) of the Library of Congress.)

e. The Air Force project Cross Check is a literature exploitation effort which has objectives and uses source documents that are identical with the OCR Bibliographic project.

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5. Taking into account all of these ramifications, I have the impression that the ADP Staff is confronted with problems of negotiation and persuasion of a more complex nature than one would infer from their report. These parochialisms, together with the technical difficulties of creating a generally acceptable file format and obtaining agreement with a modified transliteration system before beginning to capture the data in machine language, make highly optimistic their estimates that an interim system can be in being six to nine months hence.

6. I had only one real question about the feasibility and justification for using EDP techniques for the bibliographic project and this was based upon their present statistical information which shows only about 8000 inquiries to the system each year. This is a fairly low use rate for a computer application. I have been told, however, that the true rate of inquiry cannot be measured from the present method of statistical compilation and that more accurate figures will be developed as one of the first tasks in the next phase of the study. It seems to me this is a key factor in deciding how far to proceed with the design of an EDP system.

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